

Serial No. 09/050,614
Amendment A

On Page 12, line 1, please change "lower block 124" to -- upper block 122 --.

On Page 12, line 4, please change "upper block 122" to -- lower block 124 --.

On page 12, line 25, after "molded plastic," please insert -- thermally formed material --.

On Page 14, line 20, please delete "64" and insert -- 42 --.

On Page 15, lines 6, 8, and 10, please delete "64" (three occurrences) and insert -- 42 --.

On Page 16, lines 27 and 31, please delete "160" (two occurrences) and insert -- 200 --.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1 (Once Amended). A processing assembly for insertion into and removal from an arcuate channel defined between inner and outer walls which, in use, [is] are rotated about a rotational axis to create a centrifugal field, the processing assembly comprising,

an elongated processing container having flexibility and which, in use, occupies the arcuate channel to [receive] convey fluids within the arcuate channel in a circumferential path about the rotation axis for separation in the centrifugal field, and

a carrier [carrying] secured to the processing container shaped to maintain the processing container outside the arcuate channel in a rounded, flexed condition conforming to the arcuate channel, the carrier limiting deformation of the processing container during insertion into or removal from the arcuate channel.

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2 (Once Amended). A processing assembly comprising
an arcuate centrifuge channel defined between inner and outer walls which, in use, [is] are rotated about a rotational axis to create a centrifugal field,

an elongated processing container having flexibility and which, in use, occupies the arcuate centrifuge channel to [receive] convey fluids within the arcuate centrifuge channel in a circumferential path about the rotation axis for separation in the centrifugal field, and

a carrier [carrying] secured to the processing container shaped to maintain the processing container outside the arcuate channel in a rounded, flexed condition conforming to the arcuate centrifuge channel, the carrier limiting deformation of the processing container during insertion into or removal from the arcuate centrifuge channel.

Please cancel claim 3.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16 (Once Amended). An assembly according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the processing container has a normal lay flat geometry [unlike the channel] when not secured to the carrier.

Please amend claim 19 as follows:

19 (Once Amended). A blood processing assembly comprising an arcuate centrifuge channel defined between inner and outer walls which, in use, [is] are rotated about a rotational axis to create a centrifugal field,

an elongated processing container having flexibility and which, in use, occupies the arcuate centrifuge channel,

tubing integrally connected to the processing container to convey blood from a source into the processing container to convey fluids within the arcuate centrifuge channel in a circumferential path about the rotation axis for separation in the centrifugal field, and

a carrier [attached] secured to the processing container [and retaining] shaped to maintain the processing container outside the arcuate centrifuge channel in a rounded, flexed condition conforming to the arcuate centrifuge channel, the carrier limiting deformation of the processing container during insertion into or removal from the arcuate centrifuge channel.

Please cancel claim 21.

Please amend claim 22 as follows:

22 (Once Amended). A method for manufacturing an elongated, generally flexible blood processing container, which, in use, is inserted or removed from an arcuate centrifugation channel [having a shape], the method comprising the step of attaching a carrier to [hold] shape the blood processing container outside the arcuate centrifugation channel in a [geometry generally] rounded, flexed condition conforming to the [shape of the] arcuate centrifugation channel, the carrier serving to resist deformation of the processing container [from the geometry] during insertion into or removal from the arcuate centrifugation channel, the blood processing container serving to convey blood in a circumferential path within the arcuate centrifugation channel while the arcuate centrifugation channel is rotated about a rotational axis.

Please amend claim 23 as follows:

23 (Once Amended). A method for processing blood in an elongated generally flexible processing container occupying an arcuate centrifugation channel [having a shape], the method